

government to bestow.<sup>1</sup> But it is not possible to account in this way for all the Cardinals beneficed over here. The Pope had inserted many who were enemies of the King and kingdom.

Among the Archdeacons in English dioceses, the proportion of aliens to natives was one to three. Of the high Cathedral clergy, such as Deans, Chancellors and Treasurers of Cathedrals, we have a less complete record ; but, as far as our knowledge extends, the proportion is the same. Of the prebendal stalls, a very much smaller proportion was held by foreigners, probably not one in sixteen.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly all these foreign Archdeacons and Cathedral clergy were Cardinals. But a large number of rectories and cures of souls throughout the country were held by another class of foreigners, less exalted in rank ; for the Cardinals, by virtue of the higher places they held themselves in England, had considerable patronage in their hand, which they bestowed on their fellow-countrymen. Still more frequently a foreigner became rector of a parish by virtue of being abbot or prior of the monastery to which the rectory belonged, for the proportion of aliens among the priors and abbots was very great. In some dioceses the number of rectories in foreign hands was considerable, while in the West of England there were very few.<sup>3</sup>

Such a system of absenteeism was a striking example of neglect of duty in favour of avarice, openly set by the heads of the Christian world. It was only too well followed by English churchmen. The Bishops, as Brunton of [Rochester] confessed, were ' only seeking for higher preferment, and aspiring to be translated to higher sees/ <sup>4</sup> Beneficed clergy of all ranks intrigued and struggled to increase their incomes by plurality. It was allowable to hold several benefices, provided that only one was a cure of souls. But leave to hold plurality of cures could, like everything else, be bought at Borne.<sup>5</sup> There, an enormous traffic went on all the year round in English livings.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps the worst result of the Papal

<sup>1</sup> *Feed.* ii. pt. 1, p. 97, ed. 1818 ; Wals., i. 260, lines 13-7 ; *Stats. of Realty* 7 R. II. cap. 12, proviso for Card. of Naples.  
<sup>2</sup> Lists in Le Neve's *Fasti.* <sup>3</sup> See Ap.  
<sup>4</sup> G. Ison, ii. 61-2, appendix, \* *Calendar of Papal Registers*, Petition\*.  
<sup>5</sup> *O. E. B.*, 73.